

From: Cecily Wood
To: Microsoft ATR,general@po.state.ct.us@inetgw
Date: 1/14/02 12:11pm
Subject: Microsoft's predatory ways

I wrote earlier protesting the school aspects of the settlement, which have now been nixed, thank goodness. However that message was based upon public concern. Now, however, my own ox has been gored, as it were, and I am speaking as a victim of Microsoft's monopoly.

I have just been informed that as a ComCast cable user being transitioned to @comcast.net from @home (after all the Excite-ment), I HAVE to use Microsoft IE (which is not so bad but removes all choice) and OE for mail. This makes me madder than I have been in a long time. Why should I HAVE to use the most bug ridden major vector for viruses as my only access for email?

I have a Macintosh computer. I made a choice not to be bound by Microsoft, and yet now I am being FORCED to use their browser and their virus menaced email product. Use of Outlook Express means not only that my computer is vulnerable to Mac viruses it was not before, but that I can become a Typhoid Mary, infecting other machines with PC viruses that won't effect my machine, but which get passed along to people I send messages to. I have checked with Netscape and they say yes indeed, Microsoft's use in servers by ComCast leaves me no option because it is requiring a proprietary "handshake" protocol which is not open source - for both the browser and the mail portions. I can't use Netscape, nor Eudora, nor Opera or any other alternative.

ComCast/AT&T is now one of the largest cable ISPs, so that entire large market is being brought under Microsoft's exclusive domination, with absolutely NO choice, no matter whether users are capable of downloading and installing alternative software - something vastly easier on a Mac than a Windows machine.

This is, of course one of the original reasons suit was brought against Microsoft. It seems to me that if they were negotiating in good faith, this proprietary handshake would have been altered to accept internet standards by now. This only further serves to point out that they have no intention of altering the business methods that made them a monopoly, that the current settlement is a mere slap on the wrist, and that they must be monitored extremely closely for compliance, once the settlement is set.

Sincerely, Cecily Wood (cecnralph@home in transition to
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